

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the rejections and objections are requested. The amendments above are submitted to place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 76, 77, 79 and 86 were objected as being dependent upon rejected claims, however, otherwise indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 76, 77, 79 and 86 are amended upon entry of the amendment. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-71, 82, 83 and 87-114 have been indicated to be allowable by the Examiner.

The Rejection and Objections

Claims 72-75, 78, 80, 81, 84 and 85 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 76, 77, 79 and 86 have been amended to address the objections for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. These claims, as amended, are no longer dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim (Claim 77 was made dependent on Claim 76, amended above, to accomplish the same end result of complying with the Examiner's Action). The Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if so rewritten and as such they are all now believed to be allowable.

The amendments are believed to obviate the Examiner's §103(a) rejection, and this rejection should therefore be withdrawn. Applicant reserves the right to submit a continuation application with respect to the subject matter of the cancelled claims and unclaimed subject matter prior to final disposition of the present application.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application and claims is requested. It is believed that all of the remaining claims are now in compliance with the Examiner's requirements and in condition for allowance, which is earnestly requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 502023.

If, after consideration of the above remarks, the Examiner has any remaining questions or concerns, please feel free to telephone the undersigned to discuss those concerns or questions.

Respectfully submitted,

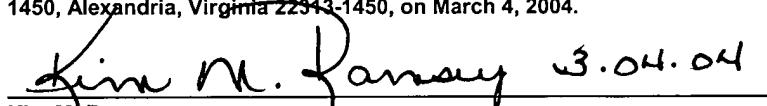


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on March 4, 2004.


Kim M. Ramsey 3.04.04